
New Hampshire
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Annual Eastern States Exposition Has Begun

September 2005
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The 2005 Eastern States Exposition (the Big E!) opened in West Springfield, Massachusetts on Sept. 16 and continues through Oct. 2. Each year, over one million people visit the Big E to learn about the New England states and experience regional agriculture, hands-on living history, music and performances from regional and national entertainers, great food, demonstrations and exhibits, exciting rides and games.

The New Hampshire Building, on the Big E's Avenue of States is celebrating its 75th year! Generations of fair goers have experienced a little taste of New Hampshire at the Big E. "New Hampshire's Own" is the theme as the Granite State is showcased throughout the seventeen day event. Visitors to the New Hampshire Building will find an impressive gathering of businesses, products and entertainers, each sharing their own story, highlighting New Hampshire craftsmanship and the arts. A handsome timber frame structure designed and built by Yankee Barn Homes of Grantham, NH in partnership with the NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food and the NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development, serves as the focal centerpiece of the New Hampshire Building. The structure houses exhibits, entertainment/demonstration stages and the state information welcome center.

Food and agriculture are also featured with special exhibits and demonstrations by the New Hampshire maple and Christmas tree associations. There will be plenty of the famous New Hampshire blueberry pie and ice cream, homemade broccoli & cheddar cheese soup, plus the very popular butter-dipped New Hampshire corn-on-the-cob served at the New Hampshire Building!

Special demonstrations have been scheduled each day of the fair featuring New Hampshire crafters at work. Fair goers will be able to see stenciling, spinning with wool, wood carving, toy making, weaving, chair caning, fiber art and more. Musical entertainment is planned for each Friday-Sunday in the New Hampshire Building, showcasing local musicians including: Parker Hill Road, a bluegrass band from Lyman; Rob Oxford, vocalist from Manchester; Portsmouth singer, Jeff Warner; Cajun and French Canadian musicians, Mary Jo Slattery and Andy Stewart of Enfield; the Purly Gates Trio of Alstead; Regina Delaney and Claudia Altemus, Irish harper and singers from Exeter; multi-instrumentalist, Ryan Thomson of Newmarket.

New Hampshire Day at the Big E is Sept. 23. Additional activities and events have been set for this special day, featuring performances by accordionist, Gary Sredzienski of Greenland; the Windham Community Swing Band; "Junk" percussion band of Londonderry; Lyme Town Band; Cheshiremen Barbershop Singers of Keene; Cardigan Mountain Tradition bluegrass band of Enfield. Be sure to see the University of New Hampshire Woodsmen's Team on stage as they showcase their skills with forestry equipment such as crosscut saws, axes, peaveys and more! Don't forget the annual New Hampshire Day Parade throughout the exposition grounds.

There will be lots to see and do during the 2005 Big E with plenty of good old fun for the whole family. For more information about the Big E, log on to www.thebige.com

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